

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 17057 111835Z

70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 CU-02 ACDA-05 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 NIC-01 /064 W

----- 065339

R 111617Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4445

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PAAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 17057

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJ: SOVIET COMMENT ON U.S. ELECTION RESULTS

1. SUMMARY. PRAVDA REPORT ON THE "U.S. AFTER THE ELECTIONS" BY CORRESPONDENT KURDYUMOV (NOVEMBER 8) SUGGESTS THAT TUESDAY'S DEMOCRATIC VICTORY IN CONGRESS MAY HAVE A "SIGNIFICANT INFLUENCE" ON THE FOREIGN AS WELL AS THE DOMESTIC POLICIES OF THE FORD ADMINISTRATION. PRAVDA QUOTES FROM A NEW YORK "TIMES" COMMENTARY CONTENDING THAT THE REPUBLICAN LOSSES MAY HAVE CLOUDED THE PARTY'S CHANCES FOR A SUCCESSFUL PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN IN 1976. A MOSCOW LECTURER SAID THAT U.S. POLICY TOWARD THE USSR IS STILL BEING DEBATED. SENATOR MONDALE, SPEAKING AT THE USA INSTITUTE NOVEMBER 11, SOUGHT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 17057 111835Z

TO PRICK ANY SOVIET HOPES THAT THE NEW CONGRESS MIGHT BE MORE

DOVISH ON DEFENSE. END SUMMARY.

2. KURDYUMOV'S ARTICLE, PRESENTED AS A WRAP-UP OF U.S. PRESS OPINION, HEWS TO THE SOVIET PRE-ELECTION AND EARLY POST-ELECTION LINE IN LAYING THE REPUBLICANS' DEFEAT TO U.S. DOMESTIC PROBLEMS (E.G. INFLATION, DECLINING PRODUCTION AND WATERGATE). BUT IT GOES BEYOND EARLIER SOVIET COMMENT IN SUGGESTING THAT THE DEMOCRATIC VICTORY MAY HAVE MAJOR IMPLICATIONS FOR PRESIDENT FORD'S FOREIGN POLICY AS WELL. NOTING THAT THE PRESIDENT MUST CONFRONT "DIFFICULT AND COMPLEX" DOMESTIC PROBLEMS KURDYUMOV CITES U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT TO THE EFFECT THAT THE PRESIDENT MUST NOW DEAL WITH A CONGRESS "FIRMLY CONTROLLED BY A MAJORITY FROM THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY." MOST OF THE REMAINDER OF THE ARTICLE IS GIVEN TO A LENGTHY QUOTE FROM JAMES RESTON WHICH CITES HIS OPINION THAT THE NEW BALANCE OF FORCES BETWEEN THE WHITE HOUSE AND CAPITOL HILL MAY INFLUENCE SEVERAL IMPORTANT QUESTIONS OF DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY; THAT SOLUTIONS TO THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM, PROBLEMS OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND FINANCE AND OF ARMS CONTROL WILL DEPEND ON MUTUAL ANALYSIS AND TRUST BETWEEN THE WHITE HOUSE AND CONGRESS; AND THAT THE PRESIDENT, DESPITE HIS MANY FRIENDS ON CAPITAL HILL, HAS NOT HAD TIME TO ESTABLISH EFFECTIVE RELATIONS WITH CONGRESS IN THE THREE MONTHS OF HIS PRESIDENCY.

4. KURDYUMOV CONCLUDES HIS WRAP-UP BY CITING THE "TIMES" TO THE EFFECT THAT THE PRESIDENT MUST ALSO BE CONCERNED ABOUT STRENGTHENING THE REPUBLICAN PARTY IF IT IS TO HAVE A CHANCE FOR SUCCESS DURING THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN 1976, AND HE NOTES THAT THE "TIMES" CONCLUDES THAT THIS WILL BE ALL THE MORE DIFFICULT BECAUSE OF REPUBLICAN LOSSES IN STATE AND LOCAL ELECTIONS.

5. COMMENT: KURDYUMOV'S STORY IS THE MOST CANDID WE HAVE SEEN HERE IN ASSESSING THE POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS FOR U.S. FOREIGN POLICY ENTAILED IN THE DEMOCRATIC GAINS IN CONGRESS. BOTH BY TONE AND CONTENT THE ARTICLE SUGGESTS TO SOVIET READERS THAT THE PRESIDENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 17057 111835Z

HAS BEEN WEAKENED BY THE ELECTION'S RESULTS EVEN UP TO THE POINT OF AFFECTING HIS CHANCES FOR REELECTION IN 1976. ITS FOCUS ON THE POTENTIAL IMPACT ON U.S. FOREIGN POLICY --WHILE MAKING NO DIRECT MENTION OF U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS -- SEEMS ALSO MEANT TO HINT THAT MOSCOW'S DEALINGS WITH WASHINGTON WILL BE MORE COMPLICATED NOW THAN BEFORE.

6. A MOSCOW PUBLIC LECTURER SAID
ON NOVEMBER 10 THAT THE DEMOCRATIC SWEEP SHOULD NOT
AFFECT BILATERAL RELATIONS, THAT CERTAIN AGREEMENTS
HAVE BEEN REACHED AND THE U.S. GOVERNMENT SHOULD
FULFILL ITS COMMITMENTS. HOWEVER, SPEAKING OF
WATERGATE AS ONE OF THE ELECTION ISSUES, THE SPEAKER
CLAIMED THAT ANTI-DETENTE FORCES HAD PLAYED A PART AND THAT
THE QUESTION OF HOW TO DEAL WITH THE SOVIET UNION
WAS STILL BEING DEBATED IN THE U.S.

7. SOVIET CONCERNS IN THIS REGARD WERE EVIDENT IN THE Q AND A
FOLLOWING SENATOR MONDALE'S SPEECH TO THE USA INSTITUTE,
THE SENATOR WAS ASKED HIS VIEW OF THE NEW CONGRESS IN TERMS
OF EXECUTIVE-CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS IN FOREIGN POLICY.
IN HIS ANSWER HE SAID THAT THE NEW CONGRESS' APPROACH TO
FOREIGN POLICY WOULD DEPEND TO A LARGE EXTENT ON THE ENVIRONMENT
CREATED BY U.S.-SOVIET SUMMIT TALKS. MONDALE SAID THAT IF THERE
WAS PROGRESS ON STRATEGIC ARMS, "YOU WILL FIND THE U.S. CONGRESS
A POSITIVE FORCE FOR DETENTE." REPEATING A POINT MADE IN HIS
SPEECH, HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT IF THE ARMS RACE ESCALATED,
"THE U.S. WILL RESPOND."
STOESSEL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MOSCOW17057
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740324-0819
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741154/aaaabtph.tel
Line Count: 137
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 MAY 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <08 JUL 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET COMMENT ON U.S. ELECTION RESULTS
TAGS: PFOR, UR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005